That is

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第6話

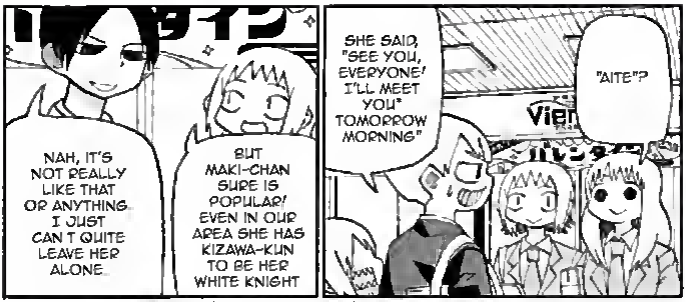
TRANSLATOR NINJIN NINGEN

バレンタイン
ARE YOU GONNA BE ALRIGHT? GOING HOME ALONE? DON'T GO IN ANY STRANGE MAN'S VAN
HAHAHA OH MAKI-CHAN, YOU'RE SO CUTE!
MAKI-CHAN IS THE KIND OF GIRL YOU JUST CAN'T LEAVE ALONE SHE'S SO SHY AND ADORABLE
ZZZ
HMM? IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?
SFX GRABBING TIGHT
SFX TINY STEPS
SFX TURNING

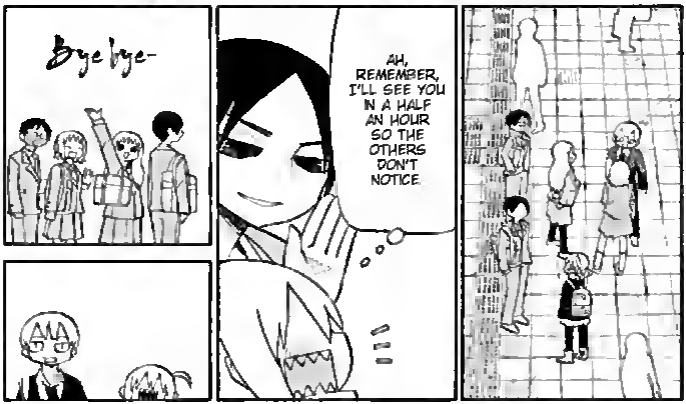
TEXT: UNEXPECTED!

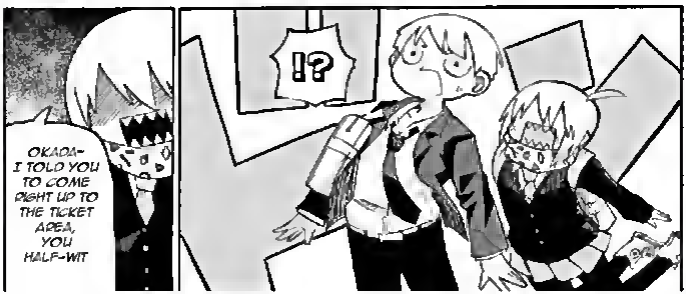
AH, OUCH!
UM, I THINK YOU GUYS KNOW THIS, BUT SHE'S PAINFULLY SHY AND CAN'T GET HOME ALL BY HERSELF
I JUST HELP HER GET HOME FROM THE STATION EVERYDAY

SFX: SQUEEZE


NAH, IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT OR ANYTHING. I JUST CAN'T QUITE LEAVE HER ALONE.
BUT MAKI-CHAN SURE IS POPULAR! EVEN IN OUR AREA SHE HAS KIZAWA-KUN TO BE HER WHITE KNIGHT
SHE SAID, "SEE YOU, EVERYONE! I'LL MEET YOU" TOMORROW MORNING"
"AITE"?

"T/N: AH, OUCH" IS PRONOUNCED "AITE" WHICH CAN BE REINTERPRETED AS THE VERB TO MEET





IT'S EMBARASSING BEING BY MYSELF AND I CAN'T EVEN FIND ANYTHING TO SAY
WHEN I'M LIKE THAT I LOOK LIKE A FOOL TOO! A WORTHLESS FOOL!
WHEN I'M WITH MY HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS I GET REALLY NERVOUS SO I TOLD YOU TO NOT EVEN WAIT A SECOND AND RUSH OVER HERE AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, YOU FOOL!!!
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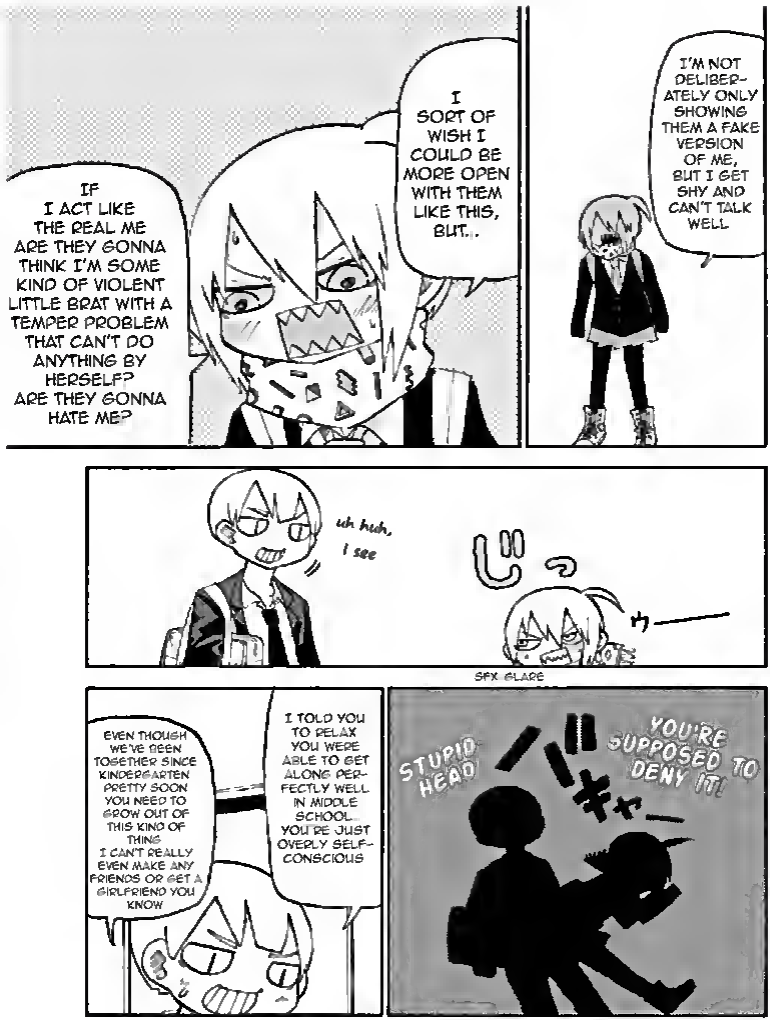
IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU WON'T COME TO 1ST HIGH! THAT'S WHY ALL THIS ANNOYING STUFF HAPPENS, YOU STUPIDHEAD!
NO, I TRIED MY BEST BUT WITH MY BRAIN 2ND HIGH IS ALL I CAN HANDLE SORRY
IT'S ALREADY FEBRUARY IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOU STARTED HIGH SCHOOL YOU'RE DOING FINE
YOU MADE FRIENDS, AND THEY'RE ALL GOOD PEOPLE
THAT'S EXACT-LY IT!


IF I ACT LIKE THE REAL ME ARE THEY GONNA THINK I'M SOME KIND OF VIOLENT LITTLE BRAT WITH A TEMPER PROBLEM THAT CAN'T DO ANYTHING BY HERSELF? ARE THEY GONNA HATE ME?
I SORT OF WISH I COULD BE MORE OPEN WITH THEM LIKE THIS, BUT...
I'M NOT DELIBERATELY ONLY SHOWING THEM A FAKE VERSION OF ME, BUT I GET SHY AND CAN'T TALK WELL
uh huh, I see
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ウ——
SFX: GLARE
I TOLD YOU TO RELAX YOU WERE ABLE TO GET ALONG PERFECTLY WELL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL... YOU'RE JUST OVERLY SELF-CONSCIOUS
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE KINDERGARTEN PRETTY SOON YOU NEED TO GROW OUT OF THIS KIND OF THING I CAN'T REALLY EVEN MAKE ANY FRIENDS OR GET A GIRLFRIEND YOU KNOW
STUPID HEAD
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DENY IT!
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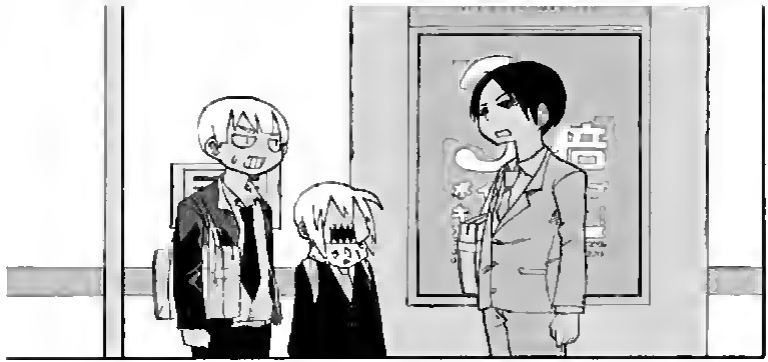
PEOPLE HAVE ALL SORTS OF WAYS OF INTERACTING WITH EACH OTHER, SO IF YOU JUST INTERACT WITHOUT STRESSING ABOUT IT YOU'LL BE FINE
"THE REAL ME" AND ALL THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING
AND WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
SHUT UP! YOU ARE AN INTERPRETER FOR MY OWN EXCLUSIVE USE!
SFX: NERVOUS TWITCHING
SFX: PUFFS OF AIR
HUH, YOU MEAN...
BY THE WAY, I'M MEETING ONE ON ONE WITH A GUY FROM MY CLASS NOW, AND I'M GETTING NERVOUS AND CAN'T TALK, SO YOU HAVE TO COME!
MY INTERPRETER DOESN'T HAVE THAT AUTHORITY!
BESIDES, TODAY IS WHEN THEY'RE RELEASING THE NEW GAME SO I WAS PLANNING TO BUY IT AND GO HOME RIGHT AWAY



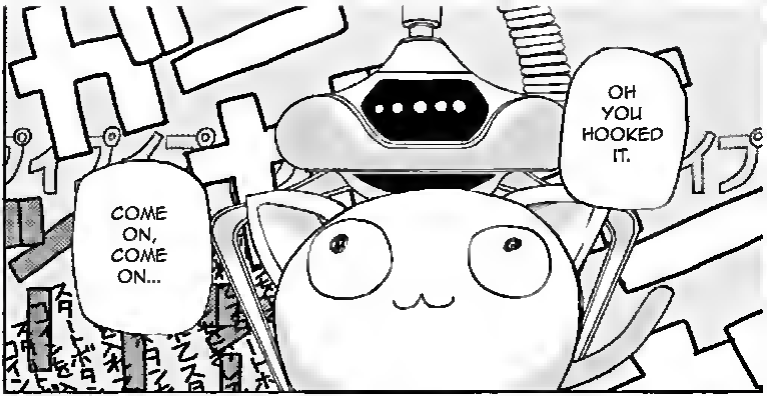
SORRY 'BOUT THIS SHE SAID IT WAS TOO EMBAR-ASSING BEING ALL ALONE WITH A BOY

UMMM... THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE JUST ME AND MAKI-CHAN BUT...
OKADA-KUN?

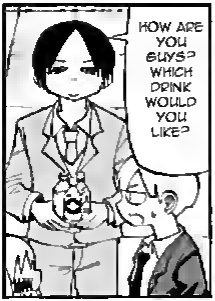
KIZAWA-KUN IS A REALLY GOOD PERSON WHO EVEN COMPARED TO MY OTHER FRIENDS IS REALLY CONSIDERATE OF ME
UM, OKAY...

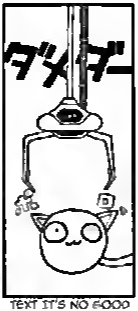
Whoah, he's really charming

ACTUALLY, I DON'T MIND AT ALL REALLY WHAT SHOULD WE DO SINCE WE'RE ALL HERE, HOW ABOUT THE ARCADE?
OR MAYBE BOWL-ING OR KARA-OKE?



SFX: NOISY ARCADE BACKGROUND SOUNDS

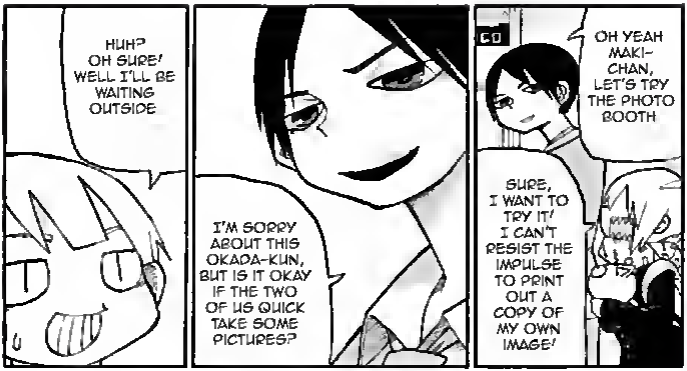




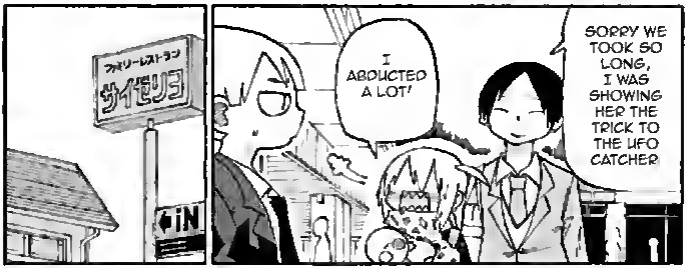
TEXT: IT'S NO GOOD

TEXT TADA!

TEXT ABDUCTED


HUH? OH SURE! WELL I'LL BE WAITING OUTSIDE
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS OKADA-KUN, BUT IS IT OKAY IF THE TWO OF US QUICK TAKE SOME PICTURES?
OH YEAH MAKI-CHAN, LET'S TRY THE PHOTO BOOTH
SURE, I WANT TO TRY IT! I CAN'T RESIST THE IMPULSE TO PRINT OUT A COPY OF MY OWN IMAGE!

SIGN PURIKURA SIMPLE PRETTY!



SIGN FAMILY RESTAURANT SAIZERIYO

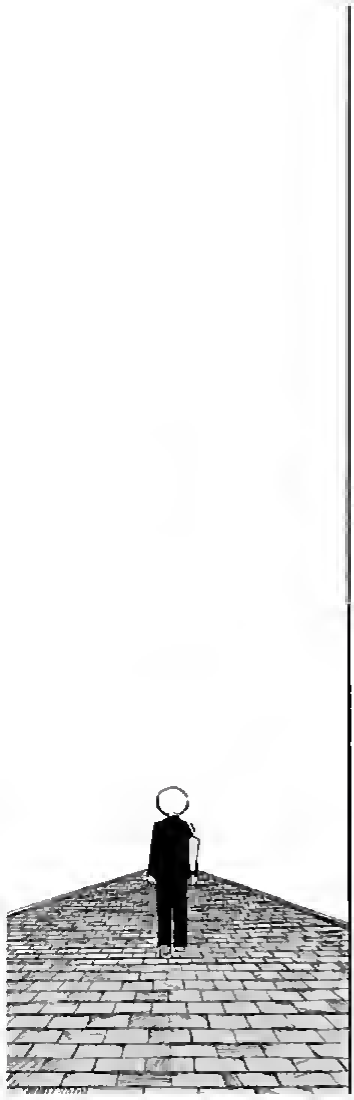
TODAY WAS FUN, WE SHOULD BE HEADING OUT SOON
IT WAS FUN!
MAKI!
First, the bathroom!
IT'S JUST THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER TIME TO TALK, JUST THE TWO OF US
WHAT? THE BATHROOM? FINE, YOU GO FIRST
HUH? WHAT?
NOT THAT!

IT'S PRETTY CLEAR YOU LIKE THAT GUY.
バレンタイン メニュー
OH THAT'S RIGHT TODAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY ISN'T IT...
WHAT'S MORE, EVEN WHEN I'M NOT BEING THE GO-BETWEEN, IF IT'S WITH HIM YOU CAN TALK JUST FINE
HE'S A GOOD CATCH EVEN A GUY LIKE ME CAN TELL
SIGN: VALENTINE'S MENU
SO TELL ME, DID YOU PREPARE SOMETHING LIKE CHOC-OLATE?
CHANCES ARE HIGH HE'S THINKING ABOUT IT TOO.
YOU WERE PROBABLY HOPING TO MEET HIM ON A DAY LIKE THIS

WELL...
...
YOU KNOW WHAT!
IT'S A HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE CAKE, BUT ISN'T IT KINDA WEIRD?
I THINK I KNOW YOU PRETTY DAMN WELL.
I'M CONFIDENT I'M AT LEAST AMONG THE TOP FIVE ON THIS EARTH
YOU SAY STUFF LIKE YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING BY YOURSELF, AND YOU'RE HIDING THE REAL YOU...
BUT I'M TELLING YOU YOU'RE FINE

INSTEAD IT'S LIKE THAT LITTLE KID I KEEP DRAGGING AROUND IS THE FRAUD, AND THE YOU I DON'T KNOW... THE ONE THAT CAN MANAGE WAY BETTER THAN A GUY LIKE ME — I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT'S THE REAL YOU
EVEN THAT HOMEMADE CAKE WOULD ORDINARILY BE CONSIDERED EXCELLENT
YOU'RE MAINTAINING A GOOD RANKING AT 1ST HIGH, AND YOU'VE MADE PLENTY OF FRIENDS

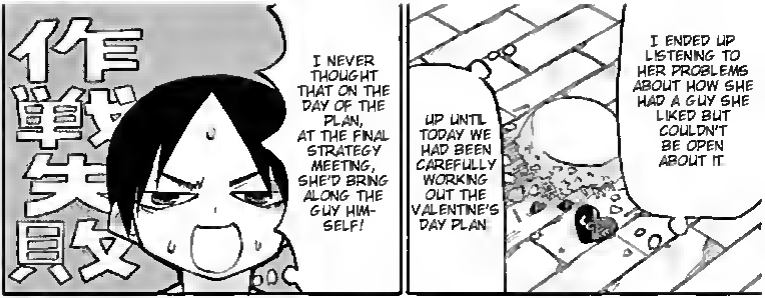
OKAY.
. . .
SO THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU TO GIVE IT YOUR BEST. I PROMISE IT WILL WORK OUT, OKAY?


WELL, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
OH, I WANNA PLAY THIS GAME SO I'M HEADING HOME. SORRY
OH? ALRIGHT THEN. LET'S GO MAKI-CHAN.
LATER.

BLOT

MAKI?
HUH, WHAT IS? WHAT IS ALL ME?
IT'S ALL YOU, STUPID! STUPID!
IT WAS YOU IT WAS YOU IT WAS YOU IT WAS YOU!

WHAT IS!?
THAT IS!!!
IT TOOK A YEAR, BUT MAKI-CHAN FINALLY STARTED TO TALK TO ME.


作戦失敗
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT ON THE DAY OF THE PLAN, AT THE FINAL STRATEGY MEETING, SHE'D BRING ALONG THE GUY HIMSELF!
UP UNTIL TODAY WE HAD BEEN CAREFULLY WORKING OUT THE VALENTINE'S DAY PLAN.
I ENDED UP LISTENING TO HER PROBLEMS ABOUT HOW SHE HAD A GUY SHE LIKED BUT COULDN'T BE OPEN ABOUT IT.

TEXT: STRATEGY FAILURE

THE CAKE IS ALL RUINED! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!!
WHAT'S MESSED UP IS SHE WAS THE ONE WHO DID IT HERSELF
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY! EAT IT ALL!! WAAH!
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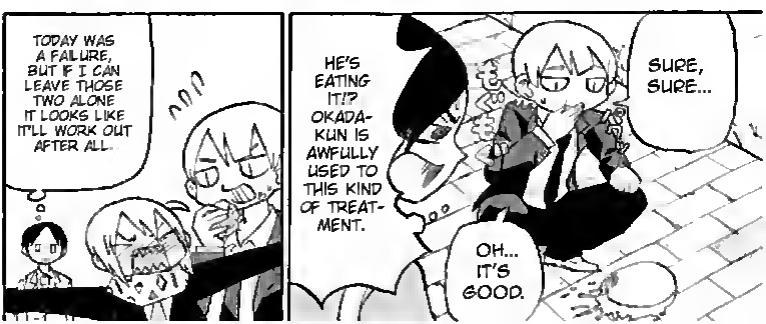
TODAY WAS A FAILURE, BUT IF I CAN LEAVE THOSE TWO ALONE IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL WORK OUT AFTER ALL.
HE'S EATING IT!? OKADA-KUN IS AWFULLY USED TO THIS KIND OF TREATMENT.
SURE, SURE...
OH... IT'S GOOD.